

Serial No.: 10/698,624
Docket No.: No.56
ORI.079

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it places the Application in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Allowable claims 10 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 16 and 17 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 14. While Applicant submits that all the claims are allowable, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the interest of expediting prosecution.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein or later are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein or later should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 10 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicant submits that claims 2-9, 11-13, and 16-17 depend upon allowable claims 10 and 14, and are therefore likewise allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 2-17, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

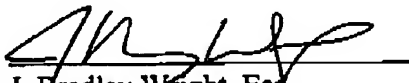
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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 5, 2006


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner James N. Smalley, Group Art Unit #3727 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 5th day of April, 2006.

Date: 4/5/06


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